



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Earnings of Agricultural Labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk. From Returns prepared by JAMES PHILLIPS KAY, Esq., F.S.S., Assistant Poor-Law Commissioner.

IN proceeding to an inquiry respecting the annual income procured by agricultural labourers throughout Norfolk and Suffolk, the only means of satisfactorily determining this question appeared to consist in obtaining from as many farmers as possible an account of the income of the labourers in their own employment. This could not be accomplished with the necessary accuracy amongst the least skilful and intelligent farmers, because this class keep no accounts, and are not accustomed to that minute accuracy in details necessary to render the results valuable. Dr. Kay was therefore constrained to content himself with seeking the information which he desired to collect from a class of farmers which he knew to possess the requisite qualifications for making accurate replies. The returns are, therefore, to be considered as accumulated evidence of the average income of labourers employed by farmers of capital, and of more than an average degree of skill, scattered over the whole surface of Norfolk and Suffolk.

In order to procure these returns, Dr. Kay issued a circular with the following questions ; and 54 replies were received, prepared with great precision and care. In the replies to the circular, the circumstances of each labourer's family were separately enumerated, his name in each case being given.

Name ?

Age ?

Number of children under 10 years of age residing at home ?

Number of children above 10 residing at home ?

Annual amount of wages for day-labour ?

Annual amount of wages for task-work ?

Harvest wages ?

Annual amount of earnings of wife ?

Annual amount of earnings of children ?

Value of corn gleaned ?

Rent of house ?

Has he a garden or allotment, and, if so, of what size ?

Is he allowed to cut fuel free of charge ?

Has he any common right ?

Does he keep a pig or a donkey ; if so, has he any, and what, privileges, to enable him to feed his pig or donkey ?

Does he possess any other source of income, and if so, what is its annual value ?

The answers to these circulars furnished an account of 539 labourers' families, with sufficient accuracy to enable the results to be classified so as, first, to exhibit the average annual income of each class ; and, secondly, to divide that annual income into its elements, in all cases in which the returns are so accurate as to separate day wages, the earnings from task-work, harvest wages, the earnings of the wife, and the earnings of the children from each other, respectively.

1st Class.—Among the 539 labourers thus enumerated were 36 single men, whose average annual income amounted to 25*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* In 26 of these cases the

earnings obtained by day-work were specified, and the average annual amount was 18*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*; in five cases the earnings obtained by task-work were specified, the average annual amount being 14*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*; and in 27 the harvest wages were specified, and the average amount was 4*l.* 19*s.* 4½*d.*

2d Class.—In 64 families there were no children, or at least none residing at home; and the average annual income of the family was 30*l.* 12*s.* 10½*d.*

Nature of Earnings.	No. of Cases specified out of 64.	Average Annual Amount.
Day-work	58	£15 12 3½
Task-work	43	11 15 0
Harvest wages	55	5 1 1
Earnings of wife	34	3 8 9
Corn gleaned	46	0 17 10½

3d Class.—In 166 families the children were all under 10 years of age; the number of children was 475, or 2½ to each family, and the average annual income of the family 32*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.*

Nature of Earnings.	No. of Cases specified out of 166.	Average Annual Amount.
Day-work	143	£15 15 1½
Task-work	96	14 13 7½
Harvest wages	157	5 10 2
Earnings of wife	71	2 9 0½
„ of the children	25	2 4 0
Corn gleaned	110	0 18 7½

4th Class.—120 families had one child more than 10 years old, and the average annual income amounted to 35*l.* 9*s.* 0½*d.* The number of children averaged about 3½ to a family.

Nature of Earnings.	No. of Cases specified out of 120.	Average Annual Amount.
Day-work	108	£15 13 11½
Task-work	90	13 17 1½
Harvest wages	113	5 5 10½
Earnings of wife	64	2 11 7½
„ of the children	76	4 6 1½
Corn gleaned	97	1 0 6½

5th Class.—92 families had 2 children above 10 years of age, with an average annual income of 40*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.* The number of children averaged 4½ to a family.

Nature of Earnings.	No. of Cases specified out of 92.	Average Annual Amount.
Day-work	84	£12 14 6½
Task-work	75	14 18 0
Harvest wages	89	5 11 2½
Earnings of wife	49	2 5 7½
„ of the children	82	8 17 4½
Corn gleaned	85	1 5 6½

6th Class.—44 families had 3 children above 10, with an average annual income of 45*l.* 11*s.* 9½*d.* The number of children averaged about 5½ to a family.

Nature of Earnings.	No. of Cases specified out of 44.	Average Annual Amount.
Day-work	40	£13 16 9
Task-work	31	17 10 10
Harvest wages	43	5 11 4½
Earnings of wife	20	2 19 1
„ of the children	41	12 17 0
Corn gleaned	37	1 9 6½

7th Class.—15 families had 4 children above 10, with an average annual income of 50*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* The number of children averaged about 7 to a family.

Nature of Earnings.	No. of Cases specified out of 15.	Average Annual Amount.
Day-work	14	£20 2 6½
Task-work	9	12 13 0½
Harvest wages . . .	15	5 9 0½
Earnings of wife . .	3	2 3 10
„ of the children . .	13	20 3 8½
Corn gleaned	13	1 6 9½

8th Class.—One family had 5 children above 10 years old, with an annual income of 42*l.* 13*s.*, composed of the following elements:—The earnings obtained by day-work was 14*l.* 6*s.*; by task-work 10*l.* 6*s.*; by harvest 6*l.* 5*s.*; by children 10*l.* 6*s.*; and the value of corn gleaned 1*l.* 10*s.*—Total 42*l.* 13*s.*

9th Class.—One family had 6 children above 10, with an annual income of 52*l.*, composed of the following elements:—The earnings obtained by day-work was 28*l.*; by harvest 6*l.*; by children 18*l.*—Total 52*l.*

In 449 cases the rents were stated, and they amounted to 1602*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*, being on the average 3*l.* 11*s.* 4½*d.*

Among the 539 cases enumerated, 397 families had gardens; in 277 instances in which the size of the gardens was stated, the aggregate amount was 5463 rods, averaging 19½ rods. Of 64 allotments enumerated, the average size is 52¼ rods. 136 of these families had some fuel free of charge; 259 had a pig; 20 a donkey.

The following abstracts and calculations will place some of the principal facts in a more prominent point of view.

Classification of the Earnings of the 539 Families.

Families.	Average No. of Children to a Family.	Average Annual Income.
36 Single men	£25 1 4½
64 with no children at home	30 12 10½
166 with all the children under 10 years old	2½	32 13 2
120 „ one child above 10 years old	3½	35 9 0½
92 „ two children „	4½	40 10 1
44 „ three „	5½	45 11 9½
15 „ four „	7	50 18 6
1 „ five „	..	42 13 0
1 „ six „	..	52 0 0
<hr/> Total 539	Total Annual Income of all . .	£19,129 16 5
<hr/>	Average „ „ of each . .	35 10 0

The number of cases, out of the 539, in which the earnings of the male heads of families obtained by day-work were specified, was 475; the total annual earnings from this source was 7382*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, and the average earnings of each man was 15*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.* a year, or within a fraction of 6*s.* a week. The number of similar cases in which the earnings by task-work was specified was 350; the total amount earned was 5018*l.* 17*s.* 7*d.*, and the average earnings of each man was 14*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.* a year, or 5*s.* 6*d.* a week. If to this were added the earnings by day-work in the 286 cases in which, at least, the labourer obtained earnings in both manners, the amount would be 29*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.* a year, or 11*s.* 6*d.* a week; but this is much too high, which arises from these averages including those cases in which the labourers' earnings were derived from one source alone, whence the average becomes raised in a considerable degree, though the

exact proportion cannot be stated. By another calculation, at the close of this paper, the average earnings of the men are estimated at 7s. 3d. a week.

The next point to be noticed in the above statements is the harvest wages. In 499 out of 539 cases, the average amount is specified: the total amount, calculated from this, would be 2691l. 9s. 10d., and the average of each man 5l. 8s.

The average earnings of the wives were as follows:—

		Average No. of Children in a Family.	Average Annual Earnings.
34 cases in which there were no children	.	..	£3 8 9
71 ,, all the children were under 10	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		2 9 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
64 ,, one child was above 10	3 $\frac{7}{10}$		2 11 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
49 ,, two children were	4 $\frac{1}{10}$		2 5 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
20 ,, three ,,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$		2 19 1
3 ,, four ,,	7		2 3 10
<hr/> Total 241			
Total Annual Earnings of all			£633 13 7
Average ,, of each			2 12 7

The above table shews that the earnings of the wife of a labouring man without children are exactly one-third greater than those of women with children; but that the number of children does not seem to affect the amount of earnings in any remarkable degree.

The earnings of the children is an important point for consideration.

		Average No. in each Family.	Average Annual Earnings.
25 cases in which all were under 10	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		£2 4 0
76 ,, one child was above 10	3 $\frac{7}{10}$		4 6 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
82 ,, two children were	4 $\frac{1}{10}$		8 17 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
41 ,, three ,,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$		12 17 0
13 ,, four ,,	7		20 3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 ,, five ,,	..		10 6 0
1 ,, six ,,	..		18 0 0
<hr/> Total 239			
Total Annual Earnings of all			£1933 11 5
Average ,, of each family			8 1 11
,, ,, ,, child			1 17 1

The ages of the children are not given, neither the number in each family in employment, nor the nature of their employment; but the above table will serve to shew the progressive influence of the increased number and advanced age of the children on the incomes of the families*.

* As the statements of the average number of children in a family refer to the whole number of families in each class, and not to the number in which the earnings of the children are quoted, the average of the latter may be somewhat different from that of the former; but this circumstance, as it will affect all classes equally, will not invalidate the following calculation:—

The Average No. of Children was	In the Families in which And the No. of Children above 10 was	The Average Earnings of each Child was
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	None	£0 15 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{7}{10}$	One	1 1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{10}$	Two	1 13 0
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Three	2 2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
7	Four	2 17 8

There remains only one other source of income to be noticed, viz., the value of corn gleaned; and here, also, as was to be expected, the amount increases with the number of children, but as the age of the latter does not much affect their ability to glean, the increase is very gradual and of small amount; and, in the class in which four out of seven children are above 10 years of age, the average earnings under this head fall off considerably, owing, it is probable, to the permanent employment of the elder children in some other manner, which is confirmed by the very high earnings of the children in this class.

Value of Corn Gleaned.

In Cases of Families.	Average No. Children in a Family.	Average Annual Amount.
46 with no children	£0 17 10½
110 „, all the children under 10	27½	0 18 7½
97 „, one child above 10	37	1 0 6½
85 „, two children „	4½	1 5 6½
37 „, three „ „	5½	1 9 6½
13 „, four „ „ „	7	1 6 9½
Total 388		Total Earnings of all . £423 12 0
		Average „, of each 1 1 10

It is difficult from the returns before us to deduce, in an accurate manner, the proportion of income arising from each of the sources noticed; but if the first class of labourers, consisting of single men, be excluded from the calculation, the average income of each of the remaining families will be 36*l.* 4*s.*

The average harvest-wages are	£5 8 0
„, earnings of wives are	2 12 7
„, „, of children are	8 1 11
„, value of gleanings is .	1 1 10
	17 4 4

Leaving a remainder of £18 19 8 as the earnings of the husband for the year, which is equal to a weekly rate of 7*s.* 3*d.*

A List of Statistical Papers printed by the Houses of Parliament during the present Session of 1837-8. (To be continued Monthly.)

No.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

- 12 Abolition of Slavery—Papers explaining Measures of Government
- 15 Negro Education—Application of Parliamentary Grants, 1835-36
- 24 Churches and Schools, Jamaica—Expenditure on account of, 1832-36
- 26, 36, 66 Commissioners of Compensation—Expenses of
- 31, 40 Slavery Abolition Act—Claims not awarded
- 33 Court of Chancery—Sums received and paid as Salaries
- 39 Court of Chancery—Reduction of Fees
- 42 Lower Canada—Expenses of Civil Government and Administration of Justice; Revenues of the 14th Geo. III. cap. 88, 1832-35
- 44 Lower Canada—Census, Population, and Houses, 1831
- 45 Lower Canada—Acts expired and to expire, 1835-39
- 47 Masters in Chancery—Rates and Amount of Charges and Fees
- 49 British North American Colonies—Imports from and Exports to, 1827-36
- 50 British North American Colonies—Duties on Produce of
- 51 Court of Bankruptcy—Expenses and Amount of Fund
- 52 British North American Colonies—Revenue from Taxes, 1832-36
- 67 British North American Colonies—Shipping belonging to and Trading with, 1832-36